

RECORDING OF PROCEEDINGS

Wyoming Board of Agriculture Minutes May 18, 2005 Conference Call

Members Present: Helen Jones, President
Spencer Ellis, Vice President
Lee Otto
Meghan Lally
Jim Mickelson
David Graham
Gene Hardy
John Etchepare, Director, WY Dept. of Agriculture

Youth Leadership Advisory: David Largent

Members Absent: Emily Horton
Leif Udem
Ryan Ells
Ryan Lance, Governor Freudenthal's Office
Frank Galey, Dean, UW College of Agriculture

WDA Staff Present: Jim Schwartz, Deputy Director
Muff Parker, Recording Secretary

Guests: Jennifer Womack
Dr. Dwayne Oldham

The meeting was called to order by President Jones 8:05 a.m. on May 18, 2005.

Board Discussion

Letter to PAB's- All members had reviewed the draft letter and had no changes. It was decided that WDA send it out to the County Predatory Boards.

Joint Ag - The next meeting will be October 28 and 29. WDA hasn't received word of the town, but since it was originally scheduled for October 23 and 24 in Powell, it will probably be in Powell.

Cheatgrass - Helen asked if all of the members received the email from Hank Uhden regarding the Attorney General's review as to how to proceed with the addition of cheatgrass to the seed regulations. Since most of them had not received it, Helen reviewed it with them and discussion ensued. No decision was made.

Livestock Board - Dr. Oldham explained the Board would will be in the red in a couple of months on the Brand Inspection Fund. He is wanting to propose

their administrative costs be funding by general funds as opposed to the collection of fees, which is how it is currently funded. He said the Board would be discussing several options at their meeting tomorrow. Some contributing factors to their budget shortfall are due to lower livestock numbers because of the drought, rising cost of health insurance and other benefits, and the rising cost of fuel. The Board will be looking at ways to overcome the shortfall both long-term and short-term. The Board let Dr. Oldham their feeling on some of the possible changes his Board may be looking at. Their general feeling was that they didn't want to see a reduction in brand inspectors and felt the burden should be shared by the state and the producers because part of the Livestock Board Brand Inspection program is to ensure the safety of our food supply. Some of the short term fixes suggested were to increase the charges, reduction of brand inspectors, charge mileage, etc. The Attorney General's Office has advised their Board they cannot charge mileage. Currently there are 61 full-time inspectors and 32 part-time. Of those, only 8 are under the age of 50. There is some concern of about getting young people interested in being a brand inspector to fill those positions as some retire. Dr. Oldham also review the premise ID system. He said it should be up and running by July and applications are currently on their website.

June 7 meeting - Board would like to have all federal agencies, Fred Pannell, and the ag leadership come to the meeting. They would also like to have a couple of hours available for board discussion.

Solar stock pumps - Grant Stumbough said they have awarded 39 systems of the 160 applications received. Platte and Crook counties elected not to participate. They will be starting the funding for round 2 after each system has been designed so they will have a better idea of how much money is left. Each system is being designed by Steve Fletcher at the university so it meets each producer's needs. They are hoping to receive additional funding in the amount of \$480,000 through NRCS by fall if their grant is accepted.

Drought Task Force and Carbon Sequestration - The next meeting for the drought task force is June 20 from 9-3 with a working lunch. They have been discussing how to help the producers after the drought is declared over. The next Carbon Sequestration meeting is scheduled for June 10. WDA will make sure and get the agenda's to the members.

There being no further business, meeting was adjourned at 9:05 a.m. by Helen Jones.

Respectfully submitted,

Helen Jones, President

Date